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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER21 December 1981
Information as of 0730SITUATION REPORT: POLAND

Warsaw domestic radio briefly reported yesterday that former Polish Ambassador Spasowski "had applied for asylum" in the US. The broadcast coming some 5 hours after Secretary Haig's announcement, claimed that Spasowski had suffered "for some time" from periodic depressions and had been recalled for this reason. The Embassy reports that the Polish press this morning did not mention Spasowski's defection. [REDACTED] 25X1

The Pope's special emissaries arrived in Warsaw yesterday evening, according to the press, and were met by Bishop Dabrowski. Church sources are telling Western reporters that some priests were arrested and others beaten during the imposition of martial law. The Embassy was told by Archbishop Glomp a week ago that 4 priests had been arrested and were to be released soon. The Embassy does not have any more recent information on the subject. [REDACTED] 25X1

The Church reportedly is being allowed to organize a relief operation for those detained. Church sources claim that most of those detained near Warsaw have been moved to better quarters, while unnamed Solidarity activists believe Walesa has been moved to the General Staff Headquarters in Warsaw. We cannot confirm these reports. [REDACTED] 25X1

The government is trying to give the impression that it has adopted a more moderate course in dealing with those still on strike. Radio Warsaw claimed today that security forces had successfully ended 13 minor strikes by talking with workers. A foreign ministry spokesman indicated yesterday that security forces would wait out striking workers in Gdansk who have occupied a building filled with acetylene tanks. The military governor of Katowice pledged to do everything to avoid using force in ending ongoing strikes and yesterday visited those wounded at the mine where workers were killed last Wednesday. [REDACTED] 25X1

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The Polish military appears to be preparing to call up recruits in January. [REDACTED] the Poles may not have conducted their normally scheduled call-up in October. At that time, the Polish military did extend the service of soldiers who had been scheduled for release and who had been conscripted two years ago, prior to the advent of Solidarity. [REDACTED]

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The failure to conscript in October may have indicated a reluctance by military officials to increase the number of Solidarity members on active duty. The scheduled call-up in January could represent further evidence of the military's satisfaction with the progress of martial law. It would also serve as a means of increasing the number of people under direct military control. [REDACTED]

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The status of Soviet military forces in and around Poland remains unchanged, as Soviet military observers continue to report optimistically about the success of martial law. [REDACTED]

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TASS, relying on the Polish press, continues to attack well known Polish dissidents, including Kuron and Modzelewski, linking the latter to Trotskyites and intelligence centers abroad. It also claimed that NATO headquarters "tried to convert Poland into a kind of infection incubator within the socialist community." Such accusations tar both Polish dissidents and Western socialist critics. The report also claimed that a Solidarity "arsenal" had been uncovered in Szczecin. The Vremya news program last night repeated the story about 1300 miners held by Solidarity "extremists", but the general tone of the Soviet media is upbeat about the "normalization" of Poland. [REDACTED]

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